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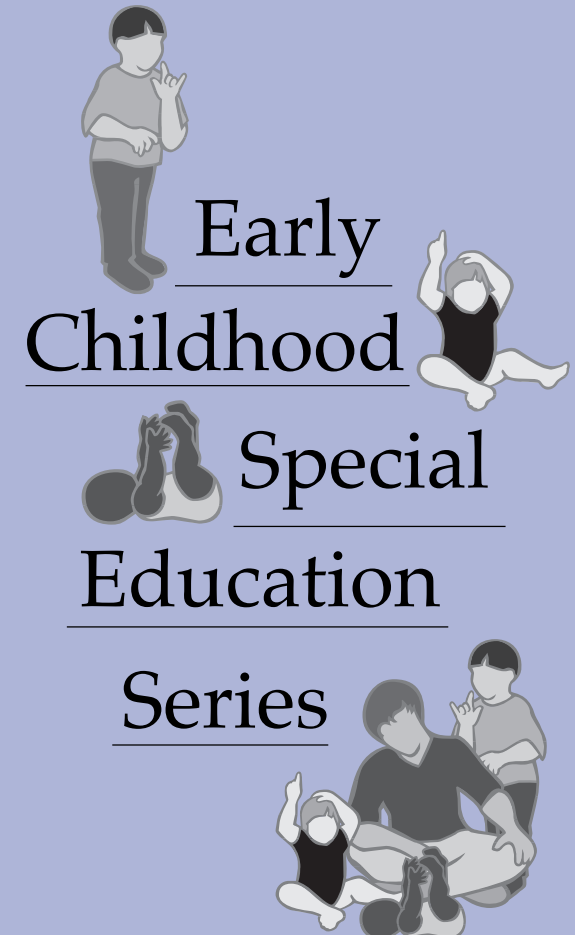
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Early Childhood Special Education Series



A child's experience in the early years lays the foundation for healthy development throughout life and readiness for lifelong learning. For young children with disabilities, that development and learning depend on high-quality intervention services. This Early Childhood Special Education Series is designed to help staff provide those services in ways found to be successful. The series consists of seven handbooks focusing on core concepts and preferred practices gathered from an in-depth review of current literature, statutes, and regulations. All of the handbooks are based on the following principles:

- Early childhood education programs must be child centered, family focused, and culturally sensitive.
- Programs should provide transdisciplinary approaches to assessment and delivery of services and opportunities for staff development.
- Evaluation is a necessary component of successful programs.
- Coordination among agencies provides services to families most efficiently and effectively.

Handbook on Family Involvement in Early Childhood Special Education Programs

Suggested activities and philosophical grounding for family involvement and parent education programs are featured in this handbook. Topics include (1) empowerment for parents; (2) support for siblings; (3) access to services; (4) surrogate parents; (5) parents as partners; (6) teamwork with school staff; (7) the role of parent groups; and (8) family resource centers.

Handbook on Administration of Early Childhood Special Education Programs

The purpose of this publication is to provide information on staffing and planning. Topics include (1) recruitment and retention of qualified staff; (2) personnel development; (3) staff support; (4) action plans; (5) shared resources; (6) transdisciplinary teams; (7) facilities; (8) contracts and vendors; (9) data systems and management information systems; and (10) issues related to child count.

Handbook on Assessment and Evaluation of Early Childhood Special Education Programs

Here the reader will find such topics as (1) an overview of instruments for screening and assessment; (2) domains to be assessed; (3) the context of assessment; (4) family assessments; (5) cultural issues; (6) key players; (7) types of assessment; (8) team assessments; (9) specific disabilities; (10) information gathering; (11) report writing; (12) program planning; and (13) training and staff development.

Handbook on Individualized Education Programs and Individualized Family Service Plans in Early Childhood Special Education Programs

This publication discusses (1) levels of development; (2) families; (3) outcomes; (4) criteria; (5) procedures and timelines; (6) early intervention services; (7) other services; (8) intensity of services; and (9) coordination of services.

Handbook on Developing and Implementing Early Childhood Special Education Programs and Services

Topics discussed in this publication include (1) natural environment, least restrictive environment, and inclusion; (2) service delivery; (3) center-based and home-based services; (4) transportation; (5) respite services; (6) coordination of services; and (7) other services and other providers and agencies.

Handbook on Interagency Process and Agreements in Early Childhood Special Education Programs

This publication centers on discussions of (1) interagency structures and functions and membership on interagency teams; (2) design and implementation of action plans; (3) evaluation; and (4) resolution of interagency disputes.

Handbook on Transition from Early Childhood Special Education Programs

This handbook includes an overview of (1) team placement for individualized family service plans and individualized education programs; (2) participants in planning; (3) sites and equipment; (4) evaluation; (5) formal and informal meetings; (6) placement visits; (7) important timelines; and (8) legal considerations.